

1. (Currently amended) A method for converting a vertically structured CAD/CAM model to a horizontally structured CAD/CAM model, comprising:

identifying and establishing a base feature of the vertical model;

establishing a parent coordinate system for the horizontal model;

identifying a parent modeling element of the vertical model; and

identifying each dependency for each of a plurality of modeling features from said parent modeling element;

~~wherein~~ converting a an existing vertically structured CAD/CAM model to a horizontally structured CAD/CAM model is performed by:

restructuring each dependency for each said modeling feature for placement with respect to the horizontal model, such that each said modeling feature exhibits a direct associative relationship with a reference feature, said restructuring including:

determining if said modeling feature is dependent on an existing datum for placement;

if said modeling feature is dependent on an existing datum for placement, then performing at least one of:

configuring a new reference feature for placement of said modeling feature wherein said reference feature is a descendent of said parent coordinate system and establishing an associative relationship between said modeling feature and said new reference feature, then deleting said dependency,

reconfiguring said existing datum as a descendant of said parent coordinate system; and

establishing an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and a descendent reference feature therefrom and deleting said dependency; and

restructuring each dependency for each said modeling feature for positioning with respect to the horizontal model, such that each said modeling feature exhibits a direct associative relationship with another reference feature.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said reference feature includes:

said parent coordinate system,

a child coordinate system exhibiting an associative relationship with said parent coordinate system,

a first datum exhibiting an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and said child coordinate system, and

a second datum exhibiting an associative relationship with said first datum.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said another reference feature includes:

said parent coordinate system,

said child coordinate system exhibiting an associative relationship with said parent coordinate system,

a third datum exhibiting an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and said child coordinate system, and

a fourth datum exhibiting an associative relationship with said third datum.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further including identifying a primitive element in said vertically structured CAD/CAM model.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 further including converting said primitive element to a feature.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein said converting includes establishing a new feature corresponding to said primitive element such that said new feature exhibits an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and a child thereof for placement and positioning; and such that said new feature; exhibits an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and a child thereof for positioning.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein said associative relationship is a parent/child relationship.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said base feature corresponds to a selected primitive element in said vertically structured CAD/CAM model.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said establishing said parent coordinate system comprises:

creating a first datum plane positioned and oriented relative to a reference;

creating a second datum plane positioned and oriented relative to said reference; and

creating a third datum plane positioned and oriented relative to said reference.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 9 wherein said first datum plane, said second datum plane, and said third datum plane are orthogonal.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said modeling feature dependent from said parent modeling element exhibits a parent child relationship with at least one of said parent modeling element and a descendent thereof such that positioning and placement of said dependent modeling features is relative to said at least one of said parent modeling element and said descendent thereof.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein at least one of said associative relationship and said another associative relationship is a parent/child relationship.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said associative relationship is a parent/child relationship.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said restructuring each dependency for each said feature for positioning further includes:

determining if said modeling feature is dependent on at least one existing datum for positioning;

if said modeling feature is dependent on said at least one existing datum for positioning, then at least one of:

configuring a new reference feature for positioning of said modeling feature wherein said reference feature is a descendent of said parent coordinate system and establishing an associative relationship between said feature and said new reference feature, then deleting said dependency, and

reconfiguring said at least one existing datum as a descendant of said parent coordinate system; and

establishing an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and a descendent reference feature therefrom and deleting said dependency.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein said associative relationship is a parent/child relationship.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein none of said modeling features exhibits an associative relationship with any other modeling feature.

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein none of said modeling features exhibits an associative relationship with said base feature.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said base feature exhibits an associative relationship with at least one of said coordinate system and a descendent thereof.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein a descendent of said coordinate system includes at least one of a reference, point, line, datum plane and another coordinate system positioned and oriented relative to said coordinate system.

21. (Currently amended) A system for converting a vertically structured CAD/CAM model to a horizontally structured CAD/CAM model, comprising:

a computer; and

a computer program executing on the computer, the computer program implementing a method, comprising:

identifying and establishing a base feature of the vertical model;

establishing a parent coordinate system for the horizontal model;

identifying a parent modeling element of the vertical model; and

identifying each dependency for each of a plurality of modeling features from said parent modeling element;

wherein-converting a an existing vertically structured CAD/CAM model to a horizontally structured CAD/CAM model is performed by:

restructuring each dependency for each said modeling feature for placement with respect to the horizontal model, such that each said modeling feature exhibits a direct associative relationship with a reference feature, said restructuring including:

determining if said modeling feature is dependent on an existing datum for placement;

if said modeling feature is dependent on an existing datum for placement, then performing at least one of:

configuring a new reference feature for placement of said modeling feature wherein said reference feature is a descendent of said parent coordinate system and establishing an associative relationship between said modeling feature and said new reference feature, then deleting said dependency,

reconfiguring said existing datum as a descendant of said parent coordinate system; and

establishing an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and a descendent reference feature therefrom and deleting said dependency; and

restructuring each dependency for each said modeling feature for positioning with respect to the horizontal model, such that each said modeling feature exhibits a direct associative relationship with another reference feature.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 21 wherein said reference feature includes:

a parent coordinate system,

a child coordinate system exhibiting an associative relationship with said parent coordinate system,

a first datum exhibiting an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and said child coordinate system, and

a second datum exhibiting an associative relationship with said first datum.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 21 wherein said another reference feature includes:

a parent coordinate system,

a child coordinate system exhibiting an associative relationship with said parent coordinate system,

a third datum exhibiting an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and said child coordinate system, and

a fourth datum exhibiting an associative relationship with said third datum.

24. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 21 wherein at least one of said associative relationship and said another associative relationship is a parent/child relationship.
25. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 21 wherein said modeling feature exhibits an associative relationship with said base feature.
26. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 21 wherein said base feature exhibits an associative relationship with at least one of said reference feature and a descendant thereof.
27. (Original) The system of Claim 1 further including identifying a primitive element in said vertically structured CAD/CAM model.
28. (Original) The system of Claim 27 further including a new feature established by converting said primitive element to a feature corresponding to said primitive element such that said new feature exhibits an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and a child thereof for placement and positioning; and such that said new feature; exhibits an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and a child thereof for positioning.
29. (Original) The system of Claim 28 wherein said associative relationship is a parent/child relationship.
30. (Original) The system of Claim 21 wherein said base feature corresponds to a selected primitive element in said vertically structured CAD/CAM model.



31. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 21 wherein said reference feature comprises a coordinate system.

32. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 31 wherein said coordinate system comprises:

a first datum plane positioned and oriented relative to a reference;

a second datum plane positioned and oriented relative to said reference; and

a third datum plane positioned and oriented relative to said reference.

33. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 32 wherein said first datum plane, said second datum plane, and said third datum plane are orthogonal.

34. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 21 wherein said reference feature comprises at least one of said coordinate system, another coordinate system, a point, line curve, surface, and datum plane.

35. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 21 wherein said restructuring each dependency for each said feature includes:

a dependency established for each said modeling feature for placement includes establishing an associative relationship with said reference feature to control placement of each said modeling feature;

a dependency established ~~dependency~~ for each said modeling feature for positioning includes establishing another associative relationship with said another reference feature to control positioning of each said modeling feature; and

a deletion generated of any existing associative relationships to said at least one of said parent modeling element and a child thereof.

36. (Original) The system of Claim 35 wherein at least one of said associative relationship and said another associative relationship is a parent/child relationship.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 21 wherein said associative relationship is a parent/child relationship.

39. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 21 wherein said restructuring each dependency for each said modeling feature for positioning further includes:

if said modeling feature is dependent on said at least one existing datum for positioning, then at least one of:

a new reference feature is configured for positioning of said modeling feature wherein said reference feature is a descendent of a parent coordinate system and establishing an associative relationship between said modeling feature and said new reference feature, then deleting said dependency,

said at least one existing datum is reconfigured as a descendant of said parent coordinate system; and

wherein ——— an associative relationship is established with at least one of said parent coordinate system and a descendent reference feature therefrom and deleting said dependency.

40. (Original) The system of Claim 39 wherein said associative relationship is a parent/child relationship.
41. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 21 wherein none of said modeling features exhibits an associative relationship with any other said modeling feature.
42. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 21 wherein none of said modeling features exhibits an associative relationship with said base feature.
43. (Original) The system of Claim 21 wherein said base feature exhibits an associative relationship with at least one of said coordinate system and a descendent thereof.
44. (Original) The system of Claim 21 wherein a descendent of said coordinate system includes at least one of a reference, point, line, datum plane and another coordinate system positioned and oriented relative to said coordinate system.

45. (Currently amended) A storage medium encoded with a machine-readable computer program code, wherein said storage medium includes instructions for causing a computer to implement a method for converting a vertically structured CAD/CAM model to a horizontally structured CAD/CAM model comprising:

identifying and establishing a base feature of the vertical model;

establishing a parent coordinate system for the horizontal model;

identifying a parent modeling element of the vertical model; and

identifying each dependency for each ~~feature of a plurality of~~ features from said parent modeling element;

~~wherein converting said an existing~~ vertically structured CAD/CAM model to a horizontally structured CAD/CAM model ~~is performed~~ by:

restructuring each dependency for each said modeling feature for placement with respect to the horizontal model, such that each said modeling feature exhibits a direct associative relationship with a reference feature, said restructuring including:

determining if said modeling feature is dependent on an existing datum for placement;

if said modeling feature is dependent on an existing datum for placement, then performing at least one of:

configuring a new reference feature for placement of said modeling feature wherein said reference feature is a descendent of said parent coordinate system and establishing an associative relationship between said modeling feature and said new reference feature, then deleting said dependency,

reconfiguring said existing datum as a descendant of said parent coordinate system; and

establishing an associative relationship with at least one of said parent coordinate system and a descendent reference feature therefrom and deleting said dependency; and

restructuring each dependency for each said modeling feature for positioning with respect to the horizontal model, such that each said modeling feature exhibits a direct associative relationship with another reference feature.

46. (Cancelled)